**GALLERY WALK**

1. **Seeing Ruby**

A close-up of a person's face

Description automatically generated

Artist: Anh Do

oil on linen

240.4 x 200.3 cm

The subject of Anh Do’s painting is influential Gunditjmara and Bundjalung singer-songwriter Archie Roach, who died in July 2022, aged 66.

‘I have been a big fan of Archie Roach’s music for a long time. In 2018, I met Archie for the first time when I interviewed him on my TV show, Anh’s brush with fame,’ says Do.

‘We enjoyed each other’s company very much and became friends. I started painting Archie for the Archibald Prize when he was still with us. Then I heard that he had passed away. Deeply saddened, I went into the studio and began a new painting. I played Archie’s albums on repeat, and painted and cried and painted for two days.

‘Archie once told me he was terrified of dying, but there was another part of him that was okay with it, because he thought he might get to see his late wife, Ruby Hunter, again.

‘In this portrait, I’m trying to capture that moment – the moment when Archie sees Ruby again.’

A five-time Archibald finalist, Do won the 2017 People’s Choice with a portrait of Jack Charles.

The family of Archie Roach have kindly given permission for his name and image to be referenced in this artwork and displayed within this exhibition.

1. **Through the window**

A person looking out a window

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Artist: Jaq Grantford

oil on canvas

170 x 131.6 cm

Jaq Grantford first painted actor, writer and director Noni Hazlehurst in 2017 in a portrait titled The story teller. ‘We were both so delighted when the National Portrait Gallery acquired it in 2022 that we thought it would be wonderful to do another portrait for the Archibald,’ says Grantford, who is a first-time finalist.

‘I wanted to create an image of Noni looking safe and protected from the rain, as that’s how she makes people feel. She has a lovely energy that exudes warmth and comfort. Mention her name, and people’s faces light up.

‘The symbols in the window are for protection. Noni’s life has been impacted by bushfires and floods, among other challenges, so the protection is not just for her, but for everyone in these uncertain times. Looking through the window is also a nod to her incredible 24 years on Play School.’

In 2016, Hazlehurst was inducted into the Logie Hall of Fame and delivered a rousing speech, calling out racism, sexism and bigotry. ‘The way she spoke about her values and beliefs was inspiring,’ says Grantford. ‘It made me want to paint her even more.’

1. **Nanna Mara**

A person sitting in a chair

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Artist: Tsering Hannaford

oil on board

89.8 x 89.8 cm

Tsering Hannaford’s subject is Berry Malcolm, a respected Yindjibarndi Elder, cultural custodian, linguist, artist and yirramagayi (song composer).

‘Nanna Berry, also known as Nanna Mara, is the holder of cultural knowledge, which she has nurtured and passed down, supporting her community and caring for her Pilbara tableland Country for over 50 years. She also has a great sense of humour!’ says Tarntanya/Adelaide-based Hannaford, a nine-time Archibald finalist.

Hannaford spent two weeks in Ieramugadu/Roebourne, Western Australia, in August 2022 painting Nanna Mara as part of a project facilitated by Big hART, a lutruwita/Tasmanian-based organisation that collaborates with local communities around the country to drive social change.

Hannaford had seven sittings with Nanna Mara in the old Roebourne library with an open invitation to anyone in the community to come and watch the painting process.

‘I felt privileged to be welcomed to a beautiful part of Australia, with such a deep and rich history,’ says Hannaford. ‘It was special to sit with Nanna Mara as her portrait quietly unfolded, and to be able to share this with the Yindjibarndi people.’

1. **Ronni Kahn AO (founder OzHarvest)**

A picture containing human face, person, clothing, wall

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Artist: Marie Mansfield

oil on linen

122.5 x 91.7 cm

A passionate advocate and activist, Ronni Kahn is a social entrepreneur and the founder and CEO of the food rescue charity OzHarvest. Her mission to fight food waste and feed hungry people is supported by thousands of volunteers, celebrated chefs and food donors across the country.

‘I’ve been in awe of OzHarvest for many years, as I watched their yellow vans zipping around Sydney, distributing food to those in need,’ says two-time Archibald finalist Marie Mansfield. ‘When I saw Ronni being interviewed about Refettorio OzHarvest Sydney [a zero-waste restaurant providing free gourmet meals to people in need], it really struck a chord with me.

‘Ronni’s team has created an environment that embodies her philosophy that food is not only about health, but also about caring, sharing and dignity.’

A tonalist painter, Mansfield usually uses a subdued limited palette. ‘On meeting Ronni, I was struck by her warmth, humility and vitality. I had various thoughts on how to paint Ronni in her signature yellow-and-black style. But after trying a range of ideas, I settled on a stillness; her inner values and strong presence silently said it all.’

1. **Year of the Rabbit**A person sitting in a chair

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Artist: Sally Ryan

oil on linen

153 x 132 cm

Sally Ryan’s subject is Claudia Chan Shaw, a broadcaster, presenter, designer, curator, artist, author and collector. ‘It is impossible to represent all that is Claudia in a single picture,’ says two-time Archibald finalist Ryan.

‘I first met her when she interviewed me for her Arts Friday radio program. When we spoke afterwards, I learned more about her life and loves. This included her passion for art deco style and fashion, which formed a basis for the composition of my portrait.

‘She is wearing a self-designed dress and shoes, which was the winning outfit from a range of stunning ensembles she brought as options for the painting.

‘Claudia also showed me pieces from an extensive collection of robots, toys and other pop culture items that she has accumulated. I have referenced some of these in my painting, as well as Claudia’s Tai chi bunnies, a popular lantern installation created for the 2016 Sydney Chinese New Year Festival.

‘The bunny peeking around the curtain is a nod to that work, and the fact that 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit, as was the year of my birth.